

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/748,163

Examiner

Joseph L. Perrin, Ph.D.

Applicant(s)

MIZUNO ET AL.

Art Unit

1746

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed 08 June 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1, 4, 6, 13 & 20 (renumbered as claims 1-5).
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 09/708,653.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
- ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date 20060620.
- ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
- ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
- ☐ Other _____

Joseph L. Perrin, Ph.D.
Primary Examiner
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EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT & STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Examiner's Amendment

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Jeffrey A. Schmidt on 20 June 2006.
3. The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 1:

In line 18, delete "fluid" and insert therefor --cleaning liquid--.

Cancel non-elected claims 14-19.

Claim 20:

In line 2, delete "fluid" and insert therefor --cleaning liquid--.

Examiner's Comments

4. In accordance with 37 CFR 1.141, in view of the allowance of claim 1 (generic independent claim) claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim have been considered

on the merits (i.e. claim 13). Independent claim 14 and claims dependent thereon, not including all the limitations of the allowed generic claim, have been canceled as being directed to a non-elected invention.

Allowable Subject Matter

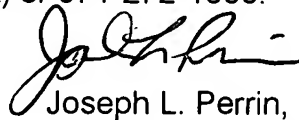
5. Claims 1, 4, 6, 13 & 20 are allowed.
6. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The closest prior art of record, U.S. Patent No. 4,727,619 to ROBBINS, fails to teach or reasonably suggest the claimed invention. ROBBINS discloses a bearing cleaning method of flowing cleaning liquid around and through a bearing and optionally rotating the bearing during the cleaning by manual rotation. However, ROBBINS does not teach or reasonably suggest the claimed method of flowing the cleaning liquid through the bearing without rotating the bearing, then subsequently flowing the cleaning liquid through the bearing while rotating the bearing via the cleaning liquid, as claimed by applicant in claim 1 and argued on page 6 of the instant response. For at least the foregoing reasons, claims 1, 4, 6, 13 & 20 are believed to recite patentable subject matter.
7. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."
8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joseph L. Perrin, Ph.D. whose telephone number is

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(571)272-1305. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:00-4:30, except alternate Fridays.

9. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael E. Barr can be reached on (571)272-1414. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

10. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


Joseph L. Perrin, Ph.D.
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jlp